

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee Meeting

April 4, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1311

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft 2/08/08 Steering Committee (SC) meeting notes
- Draft Suggested Responses to the Independent Science Advisor Recommendations from the Analytical Tools Technical Team
- List of potential Habitat and Operations Technical Team (HOTT) team

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Steering Committee members and their staff should submit comments on the Existing Ecological Conditions chapter by the April 18 Steering Committee.
- Members of the BDCP Steering Committee went before the State Water Board last week; the Board hopes to find ways to integrate with the BDCP process as the Board works towards developing its strategic plan for Delta-related activities. The suggestion was made that the Committee should come up with specific recommendations of how the Board can integrate with BDCP. A meeting will be held on April 15 (see below for details) to discuss formulating such recommendations.
- The Public Outreach Working Group is working with DWR to prepare for the upcoming BDCP EIR/EIS public scoping meetings. These meetings are intended to contribute to the public involvement process required of CEQA, NEPA and NCCP Act and are designed to provide information to the public about the BDCP process.
- Dave Harlow and John Cain, co-chairs of the Habitat Restoration technical team, delivered a presentation entitled “Update on Development of Draft Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures” in which they provided an overview of the restoration opportunities and concepts being considered by the technical team.
- Working groups and technical teams will continue to meet as needed. These groups are expected to work closely together on shared issues.
- Steering Committee members who wish to receive notifications posted by working groups or technical teams of which they are not a member should email Beth Gerbutavicius; they will be added to the cc list for the group or team that they specify.

Updates

- Karen Scarborough reporting: The Existing Ecological Conditions Report has been released. With only two commenters to date, an extension has been granted for additional comments to be submitted in advance of the April 18 Steering Committee meeting.
- Tom Howard presenting: Several members of the BDCP Steering Committee went before the State Water Board last week. Members attending included Will Stelle, Jason Peltier, Richard Roos-Collins, and Jerry Johns. The Board came away with ideas regarding how to coordinate with the BDCP process as they work towards developing a strategic plan for Delta-related activities by June

2008. The suggestion was made that the Committee should come up with specific recommendations of how the Board can integrate with BDCP and ensure that BDCP communicates to the Board as a single voice. As such, a meeting will be held on April 15 in the Wells Fargo building at Westlands WD office to discuss formulating recommendations.

- Anthony Saracino and Ann Hayden presenting: PPIC expects to publish its report in June 2008. Karen Scarborough extended an invitation to Jeff Mount/ PPIC to come to the Steering Committee with an update and/or presentation when they are ready to do so.
- Will Stelle and Campbell Ingram presenting: One of two scheduled workshops on hydrologic modeling in the Delta took place on April 3, hosted by the CALFED Science Program in response to a request by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force. The workshop was well attended and the hosts were asked to issue a report to the Delta Vision Task Force. The next workshop will present results of the modeling efforts.
- Karen Scarborough presenting: The Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been released. It was released at a “pre-scoping session” and that was attended by Lester Snow and members of the fish agencies to discuss the Governor’s letter.
- Jerry Johns presenting: DWR has issued the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a program manager and for an environmental consultant to write the EIR/EIS document. Selections will be made quickly. Additionally, at the request of the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, DWR will deliver a presentation at their April 24 meeting about conveyance. This presentation will include information related to cost, timeframe, and potential approaches to conveyance.
- Sue Fry presenting: The Notice of Intent (NOI) is almost ready to go as an update in the Federal Register. USBR is coordinating with USFWS and NMFS and they have added three scoping meetings. USBR has also met with the regulatory staff of the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who expressed interest in becoming informed about the process.
- Karen Scarborough presenting: John Chillemi is the new Mirant representative. The group welcomed John to the table.

Meeting Notes Review

Notes from 2/08/08 are accepted pending minor changes.

Working Groups and Technical Teams

Public Outreach Working Group

Karla Nemeth (co-chair) presenting. The Working Group, in coordination with DWR, has been preparing for the upcoming BDCP public scoping meetings. These will occur in many locations throughout the state, with the first meeting to be held on April 28. The meetings will contribute to meeting the public involvement requirements of the NCCPA and the scoping requirements of CEQA and NEPA, and are designed to provide information to the public about the BDCP process. In preparation for these meetings the Working Group is convening twice a week.

Conveyance Working Group

Ann Hayden and Jerry Johns (co-chair) presenting. The Working Group continues to meet weekly. The last several meetings focused on the CalLite and CALSIM II models as tools for exploring issues of water supply and allocation as they relate to conveyance. Several sample CalLite runs were conducted at the meetings.

The working group will look at biological goals and objectives as they apply to the conveyance-related issues. Gary Bobker suggested that this be done very soon and that goals and objectives be framed in a quantifiable form (e.g., how will flow scenarios relate to measurable gains for fish). Bobker urged that the HOTT team be convened as soon as possible to have more time to provide input ahead of any scenarios developed by SAIC.

The Fish Facilities Technical Team (FFTT) has been established. The FFTT will be coordinated by Victor Pacheco (DWR) and will investigate issues including what types of screens are available as well as what additional fish screen criteria should be used. USBR requested that they be a member of the FFTT.

Habitat Restoration Technical Team

Dave Harlow and John Cain (co-chairs) presenting. The co-chairs delivered a presentation entitled “Update on Development of Draft Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures” which provided an overview of the technical team’s restoration opportunities development process. The team’s goal is to develop and recommend habitat-related conservation measures (protection, enhancement, restoration) that may be implemented within the BDCP Planning Area and Suisun Bay/Marsh. These measures will be designed to advance BDCP covered species biological goals and objectives. The presentation described how restoration concepts are being generated for each hydrologic zone, and how the team is evaluating and refining restoration opportunities into draft conservation measures. The team’s next steps include collecting additional information needed to further refine restoration concepts, conducting evaluations of the draft conservation measures (using DRERIP models and other evaluation tools), and working to identify key questions/issues for targeted independent science input. The team will work with the Conveyance Working Group to ensure coordination on issues related to flow management (working with HOTT), and with the Other Stressors Working Group regarding nonnative and toxins issues. Russ Strach (NOAA Fisheries) suggested that upstream habitat restoration opportunities for salmon be looked at.

Analytical Tools Technical Team

Campbell Ingram (co-chair) presenting. The team is on hiatus waiting for feedback from the Steering Committee. It was asked that Working Groups and other technical teams let the team know of any questions related to analytical tools. Russ Strach asked that SAIC provide all documentation regarding models used and strengths and weaknesses inherent in these.

Other Stressors and Water Quality Working Group

Brent Walthall (co-chairs) presenting. The Working Group met last Tuesday and will meet again next Tuesday. The Purpose and Scope document was approved by the Group. The SAIC consultant team will take the lead in coordinating and preparing materials for the Group. The consultant team will work with various experts on specific stressors to come up with documentation regarding what is known about different types of stressors in the Delta and potential approaches to address those stressors.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Richard Roos-Collins (co-chair) presenting. In the Working Group’s last meeting, Melanie Rowland (NMFS) overviewed an example of HCP implementation from the Washington State Forest Practices HCP and the City of Seattle Water Dept HCP. There was specific interest and discussion regarding implementation of adaptive management programs and on limits to implementation requirements (e.g., performance standards, funding caps, regulatory sideboards). In addition, there was a discussion

regarding efforts to coordinate with the Delta Vision's governance group. Richard Roos-Collins will meet with the DV governance group representatives.

The next meeting of the Governance Working Group will convene in two weeks (April 18) and will discuss potential roles of the BDCP implementing entity (ies) and any updates regarding coordination with the Delta Vision governance group. Greg Thomas suggested that the Governance Working Group meet more regularly.

Public Comment

None today.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, the Resources Agency)
Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
Kenneth Watkins (CFBF)
Tom Howard (SWRCB)
Karla Nemeth (Zone 7 Water Agency)
Tracy Ligon (Santa Clara Valley Water District)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Anthony Saracino (The Nature Conservancy)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Russ Strach (NOAA Fisheries)
Susan Moore (USFWS)
Sue Fry (USBR)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWA)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Greg Thomas (NHI)
Brett Walthall (Kern)
John McCamman (DFG)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Randall Neudeck (MWDSC)
John Cain (NHI)
John Chillemi (Mirant)

On phone

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Wayne Spencer (Conservation Biology Institute)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
